



What they are saying about Jay Rockefeller's work on behalf of West Virginia families

"No one has fought harder and accomplished more in helping working families in West Virginia than Senator Jay Rockefeller. From ensuring that virtually all of our children have health insurance through the established of CHIP, to expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit that rewards over 100,000 families each year that struggle to make end meet, Rockefeller has moved our state forward year after year."

~ Ted Boettner, Executive Director, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy

"Senator Rockefeller has been a champion for low-income working families. During his time in the Senate, he fought to expand benefits for more working families and successfully pushed to include families with three or more children in the eligibility pool. As a licensed social worker for 18 years, I witnessed first-hand the challenges that vulnerable working families face each day. The Earned Income Tax Credit puts money back into the pockets of hard-working West Virginians – giving them a small boost to pay bills or put food on the table."

~ Jennifer Thacker, Executive Director, West Virginia Alliance for Sustainable Families

"U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller has been a tireless and vocal champion of children throughout his long career of public service. Whether advancing policies to reduce exposure to violence in children's lives, supporting infants who are born addicted to drugs, or promoting the need to provide every child with access to affordable health insurance, Senator Rockefeller's leadership and support for these and other critical child health programs has been invaluable to pediatricians and the children we care for."

~ James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP, President, American Academy of Pediatrics

“Senator Rockefeller has devoted his career to improving the lives of children and hard-working families, and he’s been consistently connected to West Virginia families. Friday’s meeting illustrates both – it’s a chance for West Virginia families and those who speak on their behalf to explore the future of these critical investments.”

~ *Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus*

"During Senator Rockefeller's 50 years of public service, he has seen the power of education at work for West Virginians. And he has seen the far opposite impact when education isn't within reach for an individual. Through programs like Pell, TRIO, and GEAR UP, Senator Rockefeller has been a steadfast champion for expanding opportunities for an affordable higher education -- programs that give a helping hand to people who work hard but still struggle to pay for college for themselves and their children. These are life-changing investments, and we are forever grateful for Senator Rockefeller's leadership."

~ *Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission*

“Senator Jay Rockefeller is a leader who stands tall for West Virginia’s children and working families. He stood for them as a key sponsor of the 1997 bill to create the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 1997, for its reauthorization in 2009, and is now fighting again to assure CHIP kids keep these gains if they need Exchange coverage in the future. Prior to CHIP the lack of affordable health coverage imposed a heavy burden on families forced to choose between the health care needs of their children and every day needs for their children’s food clothing and education. One cannot put a price on the sheer relief and peace of mind this brought for these parents. The days of parent worry about not taking a child who could not go to a doctor, not being able to get follow up specialty care, afford new glasses, a young teen not allowed to play sports for fear of the cost of an injury—those days are gone! West Virginia now stands tall as a state having one of the lowest rates uninsured children.”

~ *Sharon L. Carte, Executive Director, West Virginia Children’s Health Insurance Program.*

“Senator Rockefeller has been a champion for West Virginia children and families throughout his career. Those of us involved in Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the state realize that our opportunity to provide high quality comprehensive services to vulnerable children and families is through Senator Rockefeller’s unwavering belief in providing education, healthcare and other opportunities to those we serve.”

~ *Becky Gooch Erbacher, Executive Director, West Virginia Head Start Association*